



# Town of Westford Massachusetts

## Town Manager's Newsletter

December 2021



**Jodi Ross,**  
Town  
Manager

[jross@westfordma.gov](mailto:jross@westfordma.gov)  
[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)

**Important:**  
Please sign up to  
receive updates on the  
latest road construction  
in town.

[Subscribe to  
Notifications](#)



**Library Holiday Hours**  
See page 3

**Help Westford go Green  
with E-Billing**  
Page 15

**Annual Town Meeting**  
**June 11, 2022**  
(June 12 rain date)  
**Westford Academy**  
**Field**



Watch  
Meetings Online  
**westford** CAT  
community access television  
[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

### Dear Westford residents,

The Select Board set the date and time for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting for Saturday, June 11, 2022, at 9:00 AM with a rain date of Sunday, June 12, 2022, at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held at the Westford Academy Trustees Field located at 30 Patten Road. They also approved the 2022 Annual Town Meeting Timeline including the Fiscal Year 2023 budget hearings and considered the 2022 Select Board Meeting Calendar. Click the following links to view these documents: [2022 Annual Town Meeting Timeline](#) and [2022 Select Board Meeting Calendar](#).

During the Select Board's latest meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>, they reviewed American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding requests to determine initial allocations. After consideration of all requests, they approved requests in the amount of \$247,550. A financial summary including all approved requests to date is available to view here: [ARPA Funding Documents](#).

At that same meeting, Chris Barrett, Chair of the Pedestrian Safety Committee, appeared to request their consideration of supporting M.G.L. c.90 §17C and §18B: Establishment of 25-miles-per-hour speed limit in thickly settled or business districts in Westford, and the development of special speed zones. The Select Board continued the discussion to their first February meeting. To view a copy of the committee's presentation, please visit the following link: [Pedestrian Safety Committee Presentation RE MGL c.90 s.17B and 18B](#).

The Select Board recently approved a request from the Economic Development Committee to update their charge. The updated charge may be viewed at the following link: [Economic Development Committee charge](#).

At the Select Board meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, they approved a Health Insurance Trust Fund Agreement and established a Health Insurance Trust. To view information on the Trust, please visit the following link: [Health Insurance Trust](#). A copy of the agreement is available on our website at the following link: [Health Insurance Trust Fund Agreement](#).

Our Department of Public Works is holding a "Name a Snowplow Truck Contest", where they are inviting all Westford elementary school students (kindergarten through fifth grade) to help name the Town's orange snowplow trucks. Contest entries should be submitted no later than January 7<sup>th</sup> and winners will be announced on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

I am pleased to announce we were recently awarded the following grants:

- Mass Development for a Brownfields Restoration Grant for the clean-up of the property located at 12 North Main Street in the amount of \$240,000
- Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources for a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grant to assist with funding the Owner's Agent services for a town-wide Energy Savings Performance Contract in the amount of \$15,000
- Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) FY22 Grant to implement a work order management software program in the amount of \$10,000
- Mass Department of Environmental Protection for a Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Grant for Small Scale Initiatives in the amount of \$1,250

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[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

We recently received notice from our Town Counsel, KP Law, of the transition of the firm's representative assigned to the town from Attorney John Giorgio to Attorney Gregg Corbo, effective January 1, 2022. The Select Board and I are grateful to Attorney Giorgio for all of his expertise and opinions since representing our town in 2009.

Select Board Member Tonakarn-Nguyen recently attended a retirement party for Northern Middlesex Council of Governments' (NMCOG) Director Beverly Woods (over 40 years) and NMCOG's Assistant Director Jay Donovan (over 25 years). The Select Board thanked each of them for their years of service.

Thank you to Police Patrol Officer John Lincoln for his heroic off-duty actions on November 8<sup>th</sup>. While on vacation in Marco Island, FL, Officer Lincoln gave life-saving CPR to a five-year-old girl who was found unresponsive in a pool. As reported by the resort's staff, observers, and the local police department, Officer Lincoln's heroic actions saved the child's life. His service is being reviewed by the Westford Police Department awards committee for commendation. Thank you, Officer Lincoln, for a job well done!

The Select Board, at their latest meetings, honored a number of employees as they have announced their retirement from municipal service. The following employees were recognized:

- Firefighter/EMT Tim Hall for over 20 years of service on the Westford Fire Department in light of his retirement effective November 22, 2021
- Deputy Fire Chief Dan Britko for over 42 years of service on the Westford Fire Department in light of his retirement effective November 30, 2021
- Administrative Assistant Bettianne Steffero for over 20 years of service in the Human Resources Department in light of her retirement effective December 29, 2021
- Patrol Officer David Welch for over 26 years of service on the Westford Police Department in light of his retirement effective January 2, 2022

On behalf of our town, I extend my best wishes to each of them for a long, healthy, happy retirement. Thank you for all you have done for Westford, and congratulations on your retirement!

Congratulations to Building Commissioner Henry Fontaine for being appointed to the Building Official Certification Committee, representing Metro West Building Officials Association!

Town staff are in the holiday spirit, and many have decorated their department doors throughout Town Hall and other public town buildings. Please stop by our departments and enjoy the festive displays.

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Access to Town Meeting Committee, Affordable Housing Trust, Agricultural Commission, Board of Cemetery Commissions, Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee, Commission on Disability, Communications Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Dog Park Task Force, Economic Development Committee, Election Officer, Healthy Westford Committee, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Recycling Commission, Senior Low Income Disabled Tax Relief Committee, Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#).

Would you like more detailed information on the Select Board's meetings? Click the following links to access: [Select Board Documents](#) & [Select Board Meeting Videos](#).

Happy holidays, and I wish you all a very joyful and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross  
Town Manager

## December at the J.V. Fletcher Library

Unless otherwise noted, the following programs are made possible by the Friends of the Library.



Please Consult the Library Website and Social Media for any changes to these programs resulting from COVID impact.

**Holiday Hours:** The Library will close at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 23. We will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24 and Saturday, Dec. 25. The Library will close at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 30. We will be closed on Friday, Dec. 31 and Saturday, Jan. 1. We will reopen on Monday, Jan. 3 at 10 a.m.

**Festival of the Trees:** Please stop by the Westford Regency and cast a vote for the Library's imaginative "Captain Underpants" tree as your pick for the "favorite tree"! Our very talented "Miss Nancy" worked hard to bring the story of Captain Underpants to life!

**Chess Club: Saturday, Dec. 18 – TIME CHANGE - from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.** For kids in grades 3 to 5 who are interested in playing chess and who already know the basic moves, or are an advanced player. Drop in and find an opponent (or bring one with you). We provide the game sets, you bring the challenge. Space is limited to 40 players (that is how many sets we have). You are welcome to bring your own pieces if you prefer. This program is generously funded by the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher library. Program takes place in the Meeting Room unless otherwise noted; please register through the [Library Events Calendar](#). Caregivers must remain in the building for kids under age 10. This program is for Westford residents and out of town FAMILY-level members of the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library.

**Teen and Tween Make & Take Crafternoon: Monday, Dec. 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m.** Learn to make pop-up greeting cards for friends and family! Extra cards will also be donated to those in need. This program is for teens and tweens in grades 5 and up. No registration required.

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual 9-Hole Mini Golf in the Library: Wed., Dec. 29 from 11 to 3 p.m.** It's back - a nine hole (and a bonus hole) mini-golf course all over the library - here is something to do with the whole family during the holiday break. [Please register your group for one of the available half hour time slots to keep this event socially distanced and safe.](#) This free program is once again generously funded by the KDK Memorial Foundation (in honor of Kurt Kelly).

**VIRTUAL Preschool New Year's Noon Party: Thursday, Dec. 30, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:** The Youth Services librarians cannot possibly stay up until midnight so sign up and Zoom in for a fun filled New Year's party with a kid friendly craft, a dramatic performance, a possible dance off, and a celebratory countdown with noisemakers and hats and other goodies! This free virtual program is geared for children ages 5 and under with their caregivers (but let's face it – it will be a good time for all) Register through the [Library Events Calendar](#) and come by to pick up your bag of supplies before the party.

**[Virtual Westford Job Seekers:](#)** The J. V. Fletcher Library's "Westford Job Seekers Network" meets weekly on Wednesdays from 3:00 - 4:30 PM. Attracting people of diverse work backgrounds and age groups, this group helps you expand your network of business contacts, discover new job opportunities and connect with others who are in job transition and can become part of your support group. Meetings include guest speakers who are experts in the job search process or in career development. Contact Dina Kanabar, [dkanabar@westfordma.gov](mailto:dkanabar@westfordma.gov) for more information.

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## December at the J.V. Fletcher Library (Continued)

**Monday Mystery, Adult Non Fiction, Thursday Night Book Club:** All of our adult book clubs welcome new members. Please visit [westfordlibrary.org/events/adult-book-clubs/](http://westfordlibrary.org/events/adult-book-clubs/) for more information, reading lists, and upcoming meeting dates!

**Virtual Qigong Class: every Mon. from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM** Dvora Eisenstein leads this free recurring Qigong class on Zoom. Qigong is an ancient Chinese health care system integrating slow movements, breathing techniques, and focused intention. Qigong calms your mind, improves your balance, and enhances health. Suitable for all levels of ability and ages. Anyone may join at any time. Hosted and sponsored by the Sunderland Public Library and made available to all Westford residents. To join, use this Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/117278043>

Check out our [Museum Passes page](#) or call the Library for reservations. Unless otherwise noted, our museum passes are generously funded by the Friends of the Library. [Have you joined the Friends yet?](#)

### Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

[Book Bundles for Kids, Teens, and Adults](#)

[Programs – Adults](#)

[Programs – Kids](#)

[Programs – Young Adults](#)

If you have questions or need assistance, please call us at 978-399-2300 or send us an email at [westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov](mailto:westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov).



## **Westford Public Schools**

### **Still Grateful... a WPS update! December 2021**

Hopefully, you were able to enjoy some rest and relaxation over the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. Schedules can tend to get hectic both in and out of school as we progress through November and December. The anticipation of the upcoming winter vacation can feel tangible as what initially felt like a long way away is seemingly just around the corner. While many people look forward to the vacations and the time away from school, it can also be a source of concern for some of our students and families. Let's encourage everyone to continue to be mindful of those around us and how our feelings might not be the same as others; exhibiting additional patience and grace goes a long way towards supporting each other.

Wednesdays continue to be my favorite day of the week as I get to spend the majority of my day in the schools visiting classes, talking with students and staff and getting to know all of the buildings well. Over the past month, my visits have allowed me to help fourth grade students catapult beanie babies across the gymnasium, witness a great deal of tremendous art being created k-12, observe the sheer joy of younger elementary students sounding out words and discovering the power of reading, listen to older elementary students explain their mathematical thinking while estimating, watch WA students debate the complexity of the characters in Romeo and Juliet, and enjoy the confidence and courage of middle school students performing in front of their peers. The environments are engaging and the work being done by both our students and staff is meaningful and often fun...not always...but often :-)

Understanding that everyone has a different story even though we might not know what that story might be is fundamental in establishing supportive environments for everyone within our schools. The more reflective we are as a district and the more listening we can do helps us best meet the needs of our students and staff. Previously, we have worked towards developing trauma-invested classrooms which is an ongoing process as the needs of our individual students vary. Fortunately, much of that work has been helpful in our full return as the pandemic creates additional barriers for students that might have otherwise not been a factor. Increasing our focus on social emotional learning this year, we have centered conversations district wide about the sense of belonging that exists for our students and staff. Our professional development priority this year is building our capacity as Culturally Responsive Educators which is part of our work to best know all of our students as individuals and ensuring a stronger sense of belonging within each classroom and school. We have been working with Dr. Kalise Wornum both in full district sessions periodically and she has been working with our entire district leadership team, as well. The professional development plans for December's early release was a continuation at the building level of this work. As I have shared before, relationships are the foundation of great education and without positive relationships real learning is a struggle.



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## Westford Public Schools (Continued)

Finally, Courtney Moran, our Director of Pupil Services, asked me to include the following information in this month's update:

During the week of January 9, 2022, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Westford Public Schools. The Office of Public School Monitoring visits each district and charter school every three years to monitor compliance with federal and state special education and civil rights regulations. Areas of review related to special education include student assessments, determination of eligibility, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team process, and IEP development and implementation. Areas of review related to civil rights include bullying, student discipline, physical restraint, and equal access to school programs for all students.

In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process. The review chairperson from the Office of Public School Monitoring will send all parents of students with disabilities an online survey that focuses on key areas of their child's special education program. Survey results will contribute to the development of a report. During the onsite review, the Office of Public School Monitoring will interview the chairperson(s) of the district's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Other onsite activities may include interviews of district staff and administrators, reviews of student records, and onsite observations.

Parents and other individuals may call Alaena Podmore, Public School Monitoring Chairperson, at (781) 338- 6706 to request a telephone interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, the Department will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days after the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the (district or charter school) with a report with information about areas in which the (district or charter school) meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the (district or charter school) requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The public will be able to access the report at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/reports/>.

Sincerely,  
Chris

Dr. Christopher Chew  
Superintendent of Schools  
Westford, MA

***Congratulations!  
Interim Principal Rick McElhinney  
accepting the School Cybersecurity  
Trophy for Stony Brook!***





## Cameron Senior Center

### Cameron Senior Center welcomes all adults ages 55+ for some enjoyable winter opportunities

*Inclement Weather Policy: The Cameron follows the same inclement weather procedures as Town Hall. For information please go to <https://westfordma.gov> or simply call the center at 978-692-5523 after 6:30AM to receive current information on delay/closure.*



#### WELCOME IN THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER

Wednesday, January 5, at 12pm

Join us for a New Year's Lunch! Donna Dutton will be preparing traditional ham, potatoes, and her broccoli salad for us to enjoy as we celebrate the start of 2022! Cost is \$5. RSVP at 978.692.5523

#### COULD YOU USE SOME HELP WITH YOUR CELL PHONE, LAPTOP or TABLET?

Fridays 2-4pm

We are fortunate to have **Ankit Panda**, a **Westford Academy** student who will be at the center on Friday afternoons to assist you. Simply call the front desk at 978-692-5523 to book a time slot. Elder Services has started a new project to provide digital access and reduce social isolation. Any person age 60+ who wants digital training can get a free tablet, data package if needed, and training. If interested, call Alison or Annette and we can refer you.

#### KARAOKE NIGHT AT THE CAMERON

Thursday, January 27, at 5pm

Join us for a night you won't forget! Music, mocktails, pizza, wings, and most of all laughter and fun. Bring your friends! Even if you can't sing you will still have a blast with a night out on the town at your local Karaoke "Bar". RSVP at 978.692.5523. Cost is \$5. Special thanks to the Friends of the Cameron for their financial sponsorship of this event.



#### HEARING SCREENINGS

Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> and February 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

Dr. Megan Ford from HeartSmart Audiology of Littleton, will provide hearing assessments. This program is sponsored by the Westford health department. To book your appointment please call the health department at 978-692-5509.

#### PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PRESENTATION

January 14 at Noon

Join **Will Naser**, our new town **Principal Assessor**, **Christine Collins**, **Tax Collector/Treasurer** and **Annette Cerullo**, **Elder Outreach Coordinator** for a discussion on current property tax relief programs and the new one that passed last year at the ballots. We will explain the application criteria and answer questions. Light lunch will be provided. Please sign up in advance at 978.692.5523.

#### FUEL ASSISTANCE

DON'T FORGET....Now is the time to think about your winter heating costs. If your household annual gross income is below \$40,951 (1 person) or \$53,521 (2 people), and you are interested in learning about **LIHEAP**-fuel assistance, call Alison at 978.399.2325 or Annette at 978.399.2326. We have applications and can assist you.

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## Cameron Senior Center

### GROCERY DELIVERY (Great Resource)

SNAP recipients can now shop online at Hannaford, Stop & Shop, Price Chopper and Aldi via Instacart. This is a great way to avoid a shopping trip if you are concerned about COVID or you just find it difficult to get out.

### THRIVE 7 *Ring in the New Year with this program brought back by popular demand!*

**Instructor: Susanne Duato, Thrive Health and Wellness**

**Starts Tuesday, January 11, 4:30-6:00pm**

This is a seven-week nutrition and lifestyle management program for seniors looking to lose unwanted weight or better manage common chronic conditions such as hypertension, high triglycerides, and control blood sugar.

Are you ready to experience profound changes over this seven-week program, such as increased energy and vitality, automatic weight loss, improved sleep, and a feeling of well-being? Sound too good to be true? It's not! This fun and interactive class will give you a chance to learn, grow and connect with other like-minded people who are ready to invest in their health and wellbeing with you.

Taught by certified integrated health coach and nutritionist Susanne Duato from Thrive Health & Wellness Inc. The course value is \$250. but thanks to a generous donor your cost is \$90. (just over \$12/class)! Residents are asked to register by calling 978.692.5523. This is a popular class and fills up quickly, so make sure to register early! Class will be limited to the first 15 sign ups. \*If you are interested in this class but are hesitating due to financial concerns, please see Annette or Alison in the Social Services Department for scholarship assistance.

### VETERANS CELEBRATION LUNCH

Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at noon

Veterans and their spouses are invited to the Cameron for lunch co-sponsored by the **American Legion Post 159 and VFW Post 6539**. RSVP at 978.692.5523.

### PING PONG

Mondays at 2pm, Tuesdays at 3:30pm and Fridays at 9:30am

Come join our group of avid ping pong players varying in skill from beginners to advanced. It is a vibrant group of players who really enjoy the game and one another. If you would like to participate just RSVP by calling 978-692-5523 so we can set up the appropriate number of tables for your enjoyment.

### STRENGTHEN YOUR IMMUNITY WITH MINDFUL MOVEMENT

*NEW Exercise class offering!*

**Tuesdays at 9am**

**Eight weeks beginning January 4**

**Instructor: Ray Caisse from Cultivating Qi, Westford**

Regular movement of all parts of the mind and body are needed to maintain and improve our health & well-being. Mindful movement is a mind-body activity done with in-the-moment awareness of what you are doing, and its benefits include reduced stress, greater relaxation and improved quality of life. Learn meditative movements that enhance your body's ability to heal itself. Class size is limited, so register early at 978.692.5523. Cost for Westford Residents is \$24 per session; others pay \$5 per class

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## Cameron Senior Center

### CARDS AT THE CAMERON

Please register at the front desk for selected game(s) . If there is a cancellation, we will notify you by phone.

BRIDGE Thursdays at 2:30pm

CRIBBAGE Wednesdays at 12:30pm

HAND AND FOOT (Canasta) Thursdays at 12:30pm

### CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Tuesday, February 1st, at 1pm

Let us welcome the Year of the Tiger with a celebration! Chinese food, decorations, crafts and a great time to learn about different cultures traditions within our community. Don't forget to wear lucky colors (green, yellow, red and blue) to this event! Cost \$5 RSVP at 978.692.5523 Special thanks to the Friends of the Cameron for their financial sponsorship of this event.



### Valentine Luncheon

*Your invited:*

*When: Friday, February 11, 2021*

*Where: First Parish Church Fellowship Hall*

*Time: Noon*

*Menu: Cesar Salad, Vegetable Lasagna, Rolls, Valentine Sweets and Beverage*

*Entertainment: Alexandria Connolly, Theatrical Vocalist*

*Cost: Friends members: \$8 and Non-Friends: \$12*

*Please RSVP to 978-692-5523*

*Sponsored by: Council in Aging, Friends of the Cameron, RiverCourt Residences, Westford Rotary Club and Girl Scout Troop #62914*

**To learn more about the Cameron Senior Center programs and services please visit:**

[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa),

[www.facebook.com/Cameron Senior Center/](https://www.facebook.com/Cameron-Senior-Center/)

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCaNqAZb3tw8EYYQ5bEe7XXg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaNqAZb3tw8EYYQ5bEe7XXg)

or simply call 978-692-5523.



Westford Senior Center

## **Recycling Commission**

### **Holiday Recycling Reminders**



Holiday season activities generate a large amount of recyclable material. Massachusetts state environmental regulations ban recyclables from trash. As a reminder, the Westford Recycling Commission asks residents to recycle all they can.

Recycle your cardboard gift boxes, garment boxes, toy and game packing cardboard, clean food boxes, and shipping boxes. All cardboard must be flattened and no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet in size and wrapped with twine or tape.

Recycle your paper bags, envelopes, newspapers, ads, catalogs and greeting cards with no metallic inks, foil, wire, or glitter. All other greeting cards should go in the trash. Wrapping paper, tissue paper, gift tags, ribbons and bows and decorations go in the trash.

Recycle your clean and dry clear and colored glass bottles and jars, aluminum and steel cans, and plastic jars, bottles, clamshells, jugs and tubs. Clean aluminum foil is okay crunched in a ball. Empty pizza boxes are okay even with a tiny amount of grease.

Not acceptable in your recycling bins or toters: plastic bags of any kind, Styrofoam, loose caps and lids, shredded paper, paperboard cartons like those for milk or juice, black plastic food containers (clear is okay), paper towels, napkins, or plates.

On your recycling day, put recyclables in bins, boxes, or toters at the curb by 7 a.m. and separate them from your trash containers. All recyclables can be mixed together.

If you need a RECYCLE sticker for your barrel or container, ask the Westford Town Clerk at 978-692-5515. If you want to purchase a 64-gallon wheeled Recycling Toter for \$55, drop a check at the Town Clerk's office or mail to Westford Recycling Commission, 55 Main St, Westford, MA 01886. Please include your name, address and phone number on the check. You will receive a phone call about picking up your toter.

Earth Machine composers are now available to Westford residents for \$25 at the Highway Department. To get one, contact Nicole Feliciano – [nfeliciano@westfordma.gov](mailto:nfeliciano@westfordma.gov).

For more Westford recycling information, visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling). For specific questions about what is recyclable, go to [www.recyclesmartma.org](http://www.recyclesmartma.org).

**Reduce! Reuse! Repurpose! Recycle!**



## Westford Remembers

Westford Remembers had great success with our Veteran's Day signs. If you are interested in participating next year please email [westfordremembers01886@gmail.com](mailto:westfordremembers01886@gmail.com) to be added to our email list.

We are still receiving referrals for assistance for Westford residents that need help with utility bills to a new family in need of a handicapped van. Any donation is appreciated and tax deductible, please keep our foundation in mind for your end of the year giving.

Find us on the web [www.westfordremembers.org](http://www.westfordremembers.org) or on Facebook @westfordremembers01886



*Town Christmas tree planted in honor of Denis Maguire (1918-2005).  
Photo by Heather Monahan.*



## **From the Moderator**

Because of ongoing issues with the spread of the various COVID variants we have once more decided to postpone our Annual Town Meeting so it can be held outdoors at the Westford Academy field on June 11, 2022 with a rain date (or continuation date if necessary) of June 12. The decision has been made early to give everyone time to plan accordingly. Mark your calendar now and I hope to see you there!

Have you heard about the Access to Town Meeting committee? This extraordinary group is working hard to figure out ways to make it easier for people to participate in Town Meeting. They are examining how things are done in other communities and looking into technological and physical changes that will attract more voters. The more participants we have at Town Meeting, the more representative our decisions will be. Stay tuned for the Access to Town Meeting survey coming soon, which will solicit your opinion on possible improvements to our existing process.

### **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**JUNE 11, 2022 (JUNE 12 RAIN DATE)**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



*Westford Town Common. Photo by Heather Monahan.*

## Health Department

If you have any questions regarding COVID19 variants, including the new Omicron variant; please see the CDC link: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

We recommend to all residents and employees to remember to....

- Conduct good handwashing practices and to use hand sanitizer.
- Boost your immune system with a healthy diet and exercise.
- Getting fully vaccinated against COVID19.

Vaccine and Booster locations: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations>

- Social Distance were possible.
- Wearing a mask indoors-Mask Mandate in Westford:  
<https://www.westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10680/BOH-Mask-mandate-update>
- If you feel sick....please stay home. Get tested.  
COVID19 Test sites: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>
- Wear a mask to protect yourself and others and stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from others who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. The more people you are in contact with, the more likely you are to be exposed to COVID-19.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces daily. If someone is sick or has tested positive for COVID-19, disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

We do also have some additional Flu Vaccines. Please reach out to our Public Health Nurse Gail Johnson, if you would like to receive one. (978-399-2548)

Please feel free to reach out to the Health Department if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Rae Dick BS. CP-FS  
Westford Health Department

## Westford Coalition for Non-Violence



*Pictured left to right-Officer Joe Chenell, WPD, Gail Johnson, Public Health Nurse, Westford Health Dept & Chair of WCNV, Aimee Larochelle, Community Education & Outreach Coordinator, Alternative House, Detective Nirisa Nicoletti, WPD, Alison Christopher, LICSW Social Worker, Town of Westford Council of Aging and Officer Jon-Allen Haslam, WPD.*

Westford Coalition for Non-Violence, WCNV, in conjunction with, Westford Police Association, WPA, collected toys for the children staying in a domestic violence shelter during the holiday season. The Alternative House provides comprehensive domestic violence services to the Greater Lowell area and all donated items will be distributed through the Alternative House to these children.

WCNV is a coalition comprised of Town of Westford community members, employees, and survivors of domestic violence. Our mission is “promoting safety and peace in Westford through ongoing conversations and awareness-raising activities, reducing isolation, and fostering community connectedness.”

If you, or someone you know, is being abused call the national domestic violence hotline for help **1-800-799-7233** or 24-hour crisis hotline: **1-888-291-6228** or local line: **1-978-454-1436**. There is **NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE!**





## Year End Reminders from the Tax Collector's Office

### • 'Tis the Season for Tax-Deductible Giving

Income tax season is right around the corner. Are you looking for a good cause to boost your charitable giving this year? Did you know that there are three local funds here in Westford to which you can make a tax deductible donation that will benefit your neighbors? The back of every tax bill has a giving form printed on it for donations to these three local funds, but you can give any amount at any time even without the form.



**Tax Relief for the Elderly & Disabled**, also known as the TREAD program, is overseen by a volunteer committee. Applications are taken at the Senior Center and reviewed by the committee. The funds are distributed to elderly and disabled residents in need of help. This is a worthy cause and your donations make a big impact in the lives of those who are helped.

The **Tax Collector's Scholarship Fund** is intended to provide resources to all in our community for job training and educational opportunities. The fund benefits students and adult residents.



The **Arts & Technology Fund** provides for innovative initiatives to enrich and advance current and future programs for Westford students.

If you would like to donate, please **make your check payable to Town of Westford** and mail it to the Tax Collector's Office, 55 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886. Please be sure to indicate which fund you would like your donation to be deposited into. We will send a receipt for your tax records.

### • Will you help us go GREEN by signing up for Emailed Tax Bills?

#### SAVE TREES AND REDUCE POSTAGE & PRINTING COSTS WITH E-BILLING!

Taxpayers can help save trees and reduce postage and printing costs by signing up for emailed copies of their tax bills! More than half of the real estate tax bills in Westford are paid through mortgage escrows, and yet only a handful of tax bills are set up to be emailed. If every taxpayer whose bill is paid through an escrow were to sign up for e-billing, the town would save over \$6,000 per year. Even if your bill is not paid through an escrow there are advantages to having your bill emailed. would you consider taking a few minutes to sign up today?

#### **Help the Town of Westford Go GREEN! Sign up for E-Billing Today!**

- Go to <https://epay.cityhallsystems.com>
- Click on Sign Up in the My Account block on the left
- Follow the prompts to set up your User Account
- Once set up, you will have the option to select E-Billing

#### **Benefits of signing up for E-Billing:**

E-Billing provides you with an easily retrievable emailed copy of your tax bill

E-billed notices go out each quarter (mailings are only twice a year)

E-Billing helps to save trees and will reduce the postage and printing budget

## Westford Parks & Recreation

### After School with Parks & Rec's Westford Partnership for Children (WPC)

Westford Partnership for Children provides a safe, stimulating, and fun environment for school children, grades K-8, during the afterschool hours. The WPC program offers:

- **A choice of enrichment activities**  
like science exploration, sports and games, visual arts, and homework help.
- **Flexible schedules that support each family's need**  
from a single block on one day, to a full-week of after school coverage.
- **A safe and easy transition from classroom to program**  
with WPC locations at each child's school\*.
- **Experienced Site Directors and staff**  
all focused on safety, positive youth development, and academic support.

WPC runs Monday-Friday, from school dismissal to 5:45 p.m., with locations at the following Westford Public Schools: Abbot, Crisafulli, Day, Miller, Nabnasset, Robinson, and Stony Brook Middle School.

\* WPC provides bus transportation from Blanchard to Stony Brook Middle School.  
Session 2 runs from November 1-December 22; Session 3 begins on January 3.  
**REGISTER AT ANY TIME!**

Learn more at [About WPC at westfordrec.com](#)

### Parks & Rec Special Programs During Westford Public School Closures

Parks & Recreation provides support for parents and children with special full-day and full-week programs during school professional development days, parent conferences, and February and April school vacations. Each program is full of events that are educational and inspiring.

**Coming Soon: February Vacation for grades K-8, February 22-25.**

Learn more at [Special Programs on westfordrec.com](#).

### Parks & Rec Programs for Adults, Youth, and Squirts

From T-Ball for Squirts, and Speed & Agility, to CPR and First Aid, Parks & Recreation offers Westford's community with a great selection of programs throughout the year. Visit [Parks & Rec Programs on westfordrec.com](#) often to see what's on the schedule.

Learn more about Westford Parks & Recreation at [westfordma.gov](#).

For recreation programming, visit [westfordrec.com](#).

Westford Parks & Recreation, 65 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886 | 978-692-5532



*Making snowflakes at the Nab.*



*Top: Tubing at McIntyre Snow Area with Parks & Rec Special Programs.  
Bottom: CPR with Mike Votano, experienced EMT professional, and ER Nurse.*